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Christine Biddle to Susan Ursin Niemcewicz, July,3, 1806

Christine Biddle

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My dear Madam

I must begin by requesting Mr. Mencewicz
& yourself to excuse my long silence & not to
suppose it owing to forgetfulness of my friends. ~~How~~
I know not whether you will think it any palliation
that I have intended writing from day to day but
I assure you this circumstance has served not a
little to quiet the reproaches of my own conscience.
I have had so much plague with ~~servants~~ when
I had them, & also ^{been} so embarrassed with the want of
them. - (for I parted with my ^{own} ~~own~~ servant immediately
after you left us & Kelly has long been so sickly) that
I have been obliged to see every thing done myself
that I have scarcely had time to do anything that was
not immediately connected with the housekeeping -
at length I am again suited with tolerable servants
& Kelly is rather better & I mean to take advantage
of this to pay a visit to West Point. I know not

yet whether it will be in my power to stop at
Elizabeth's town but if I should be prevented
I certainly will see you on my return which
will be very soon as Mr B will not consent to
my staying more than 2 or 3 weeks at farthest
Dad is to let us know the very day on which we
must meet him at New York & as I am sure the
notice will be short I am ~~fully~~^{also} sure I shall
have no time to spare on the road going —

I hope you have found some of your new neighbors
agreeable enough to compensate for the loss of poor
Mrs Belasise — I was uneasy after the account
Mamma gave me of her ill health at the idea of
her going without a maid & did all in my power
to procure her one but the woman at length
refused to go saying that she had already found
that family so feeble that she could place no
dependence on their promises. I was very much
pleased to hear from Mr W. that she had got a

good one from another quarter -

You have talked of visiting West Point my Dear
Madam & I wish very much that you could make
it convenient to meet me there - I should then
see much more of you than I possibly can in any
other way & I wish to make the most of the time
I am to be away from home for I do not expect
such another joint for a long time to come - Do
say every thing of the most affectionate nature for
me to Mr. B. & tell him how earnestly I wish
we could contrive that we should be all assembled
more - I never pass Mrs Binney's house without wishing
that the inhabitants were changed especially since the
removal of Mr B's family to Port Phillip for I often
feel the want of a friend & neighbour - I am still
in hopes you will ere long discover that Port
would suit you as well as Elizabethtown & give up
that delightful society in our favour - Mr B. with
find the psalm singing here I believe equally charming
with ~~you~~ that of E. town - I have not heard any
thing of Peter for a long time I am afraid he will

give me up as a correspondent - as I am not as
instructed as he has reason to expect. pray remember
me kindly to him - I will endeavour to see him as
I pass thro' Princeton. -

July 1806 W.B.D.

New Jersey

Elizabeth Town

Miss Mendenhall

INT

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Tomorrow I go out to N. B. to stay some days - the
family there are all well except little John. Cad:
whose teeth occasion him much pain & sickness.
His Aunt Nancy is his nurse & has engrossed his whole heart
as his father & mother seldom see him she has no rivals
in his affection. - farewell my dear Madam believe
me most affectly yours C. B. -